

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested, for the rejection of the claims as unpatentable over EP 0 897 174 in view of EP 0 911 803, or further in view of JP 10-128778.

The claims have been amended so as to make more particular the distinction of the present invention over the cited references.

EP 0 897 174 discloses the combination of an acoustical damping metallic cloth and a structural reinforcement formed of pre-impregnated round fibers, the first element placed on the mold being the metallic cloth or else the reinforcement. See column 8, paragraph 71.

EP 0 911 803 discloses the known association of a wire mesh as an exposed layer and a perforated metallic sheet, and on the other hand, the association of a perforated metallic sheet (exposed layer) and a wire mesh.

The present invention has two principal points of novelty. The first, set forth in claim 9, comprises the combination of a structural reinforcement formed of pre-impregnated fibers as the exposed layer, and a cloth of very fine mineral or organic fibers, in which the reinforcing filaments are spaced so as to obtain the quantity of open space in the layer of the order of 30%.

The second aspect of the invention is set forth in claim 10, comprising the combination of a structural

reinforcement formed of pre-impregnated fibers as the exposed layer, and a cloth of very fine fibers, the structural reinforcement being pierced while it is still on the mold, the acoustical damping cloth being then applied to the pierced structural reinforcement.

The two European references thus disclose the combinations of wire mesh which is metallic, and the structural reinforcement as a composite, or a metallic sheet; by contrast, the invention is the combination of a structural reinforcement and an acoustical damping layer which are so constituted as to be of a compatible nature, and thus have good adhesion to each other such that after polymerization, a composite sheet will be formed which has no risk of delamination, which is very resistant to erosion, abrasion, and to shocks and is easy to repair.

The combinations of metal-composite or metal-metal of the two European references could not thus give such good properties.

The Japanese reference does not teach the second version, namely, of claim 10, because the Japanese reference discloses the superposition in a flat condition, of pre-polymerized layers to make them more rigid so that they can be pierced while still flat. Then, these pierced layers are shaped on a mold and subjected to moving in an autoclave.

The procedure according to the Japanese reference accordingly cannot guarantee a precise open quantity of surface,

because the pierced holes are necessarily deformed during shaping (after piercing) when placed on the mold.


Claims 9 and 10 have been amended so as to emphasize these distinctions and thus are patentable, and with them the claims that depend therefrom.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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